

Granite State Marine Corps League Detachment #542

Meeting **July 9th**, 2024 at 18:00

Opening Ceremony: Commandant, Sgt-at-Arms, Chaplain

Roll Call of Officers and Appointed Positions:

Commandant:	Gary Gahan	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Sr Vice Cmndt:	Michelle Vanvalkenburg	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Jr Vice Cmndt:	Vacant	Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Judge Advoc:	Chris Peirce	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Jr Past Cmndt:	B J Byers	Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Adjutant:	Eric Anthony	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Chaplain:	Joe Duquette	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Paymaster:	Marge Romano	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Quarter Mstr:	John Petrilito	Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Sgt at Arms:	Paul Coutu	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Webmaster:	Jo Zurwell	Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Media Liaison:	Vacant	Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Scouting:	Dan Fedor	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Marine 4 Life	Vacant	Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aide De Camp:	Kevin Brown	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>

New Members and guests: (Kevin Brown)

State Commandant Cody Dumont, Diane Coutu, Bill Rodgers, Patricia Anthony, Joey Duquette, Thomas Escando, Art Kidd, Marge Romano, Kaylee Bass, Sarah Stephen, Suzanne-Marie Rak.

Senior Vice Commandant: (Michelle Vanvalkenberg)

Michelle recited the fundraising reports from all June 29-30th locations. The next fundraising will be August 24-25, only at Bass Pro that Saturday and Sunday. We will need 12 volunteers; as of now have 8. “Sign Up Genius” will send confirming and reminder emails. Thomas Escando has agreed to help Gary with the set up with truck and equipment.

The next fundraising after this will be the 7th and 9th of November.

Paymasters Report: (Marge Romano)

Marge reports on establishing the Detachment account at Citizen’s Bank. \$25,154.54 – current balance; \$18,064 is available.

(See Paymaster Report attached)

Chaplains Report: (Joe Duquette)

NTR

Quartermaster: (John Petrilito)

NTR

Webmasters Report: (Jo Zurwell)

Excused. (on vacation)

Media Liaison Report:

(Position vacant at this time)

Scouting Report: (Dan Fedor)

Two ladies (Scouts) came to the Funday MCL breakfast (at which we had a Scouting ceremony) and all were impressed by their poise and achievements.

On August 10th I will need someone to present an Eagle Scout award; Gary said he may be able to do this.

Marine for Life: (Vacant)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Correspondence: (Commandant, et al)

Report given by Gary. Received:

- Letter from Ian McCole, son of Colonel.
- A thank you note from Chloe Gibson (scholarship)
- Thank you note from Liberty House
- There is a Senior Center that wants to collaborate with us

Donations inbound: (Paymaster, commandant, et al)

NTR

Donations outbound:

NTR

Awards: (Commandant, et al)

NTR

Honor Details: (Jim Ambrose)

NTR

Scholarship committee: (Gary Gahan, Kevin Brown, Dan Fedor)

NTR

Other business:

- Eric Anthony reports on Marty Michaud/James & Jan Rigsby's donation of \$327 from a raffle for the MCL: the Rigsbys, who won the raffle donated their winnings as well. Marge offered to compose a letter of thanks for this on MCL letterhead.
- Aide De Camp Kevin Brown reports he cannot send out birthday cards as was done in the past because there is confusion in our roster since it is not up to date. He also notes that electronic cards are too impersonal and that he can get cards for free from a friend who is in that business. Marge R. offered to take charge of the roster, also to print out labels.
- Seacoast detachment is having a picnic at the Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth. Military ID helps to get on base; but the event and attendance are anticipated by the facility so there should be no problem in entering.
- Richard Marsh will be doing his charity walk for Homepage (addressing veteran suicides) from the Boscowen Cemetery to NH Veterans Home on Saturday, 27th of July. The walk will be 10 miles; Gary is planning on walking some or all of this with him. Marge will be at the NH Veterans Home to greet Richard at 3:00.
- Gary: A Marine in need moved to Hampton, NH with his family of 7. He needs food.

MOTION: \$1000 donation spread over several \$250 gift cards to come out of the General Fund (Kevin: can't come from charitable gaming funds). Paul Coutu 2nds; passed unanimously. Thomas Escando said not to tell the recipient he was getting \$1000, just give it to him in increments. Gary agreed to buy the gift cards for this, and to get receipts for our accounting.

- Dan Fedor mentioned the availability of Scouting Camp Carpenter to possibly use for a MCL event.

- Gary plans to begin attending a vintage car show that takes place regularly on Elm St. in Manchester. A regular presence of our detachment will potentially help us with visibility, fundraising and recruitment. Possible arrangements can be made to have a dunk tank concession if we can get a local celebrity to agree to be the victim. Money could go to the local Boys & Girls Club. The Fire Department has expressed a willingness to donate also.
- Dan Fedor had a question about how elaborate our awards (certificate and frames) should be. After discussion a **MOTION** was made to buy plaques for certificates for Dan's Eagle Scout ceremonies. Gary 2nds; passed unanimously.
- Kevin B. would like Stephanie Chemieski of the Bedford Food Bank to come to one of our regular meetings for a presentation for a funding request. He notes that "She is NOT the volunteer that was assigned the same weekend at Demoula's Market Basket grocery last month that was also given to the MCL; that nice person volunteers for Ms. Chemielski." Chris Pierce suggested that Stella from the VA food service come also. **MOTION:** \$500 to VA Food Pantry. 2nd by Joe D.; passed unanimously.
- State Commandant Dumont addressed the meeting: remarked on the dunk tank idea, that, in his experience, an average \$1200 can be raised with a team of 5, one taking the money, one operating the tank, charging \$3 a throw. On August 10th there will be an event "old dogs, new ducks" in O'Dell Park in Franklin. Melanie will be in charge this year. Regarding his new post as State Commandant, Cody says that circumstances prevent him from doing all the things Sherry did as commandant: he is still working and has foster kids to raise. He said the State MCL needs an adjutant (the previous one resigned for health reasons). Cody does want to change the centralized way admin has worked, to be more flexible in geographical siteing for events, meetings, more inclusive of our far flung detachments in the state to encourage their participation and growth.
- Kevin Brown suggests we promote (presumably on on our website) upcoming (mid-September) statewide MCL meeting Cody has called to be held in Meredith, NH

Closing Ceremony: (Commandant, Sgt-at-Arms, Senior VC, Chaplain)

Next meeting date announced: Tuesday August 13 at 18:00

Webmaster and Social Media Manager

Board Report for

July 9, 2024, GSD 542 Meeting

Communications:

Several emails were sent during the last month. Firstly to the executive council as a reminder of their meeting at the beginning of June, secondly to all members of the date change for the monthly meeting due to a conflict with the awarding of the scholarships at Central High School. An email was sent to the scholarship committee to communicate and coordinate who will need to be at which high school to award the scholarships. An email was sent to all members about the passing of our member Gerry Tanguay on behalf of the Chaplain. The June bulletin was completed and sent to all on June 11th.

The new Facebook page has been created to replace the old one that was hacked and could not be retrieved. The address of the new Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/GraniteStateMarines542>. I can still access the old Facebook page but it is not visible by anyone on Facebook. I have connected the existing Instagram account to the new page. The website has been updated in all places that reference the Facebook link, updated Constant Contact in our templates for our Facebook link. Since the page was set up a post was added for Run to Home Base fundraiser for Richard Marsh and a post for July 4th has been scheduled.

The newsletter for early July was created and worked on to pull in all kinds of information for the membership. As soon as all information is included it will be scheduled to be sent out.

Website:

Google Analytics GA4 numbers for April 9, 2024- May 14, 2024, and May 15, 2024-June 30, 2024

	1/8- 2/12/24	2/13- 3/10/24	3/11- 4/8/24	4/9- 5/14/24	5/15- 6/30/24
Total Website Users	243	1257	146	252	173
Direct Find -typing in URL	140	182	88	148	93
Organic Search	89	47	28	81	71
Referral (link on another site to ours)	9	1014*	6	3	7
Organic Social Media search	5	14	14	20	2

*Unsure where our website is placed that we had 1014 visits from that site. Will try to find out.

The top landing page views were as follows:

	1/8 – 2/12/24	2/13- 3/10/24	3/11- 4/8/24	4/9- 5/14/24	5/15- 6/30/24
Main Home page	154	1148	134	133	123
Contact Us	17		12		10
Detachment Officers				27	12
Events	23	31	17	17	14
Membership	14	23		23	17

Meeting w Sergeant Major Ruis	16				
Resources	11		21	8	
Scholarship page		35	13	42	2
Scholarship Application		33		73	4
Casino Nights		16	14		

Respectfully Submitted, Jo Zurwell, #238602, Webmaster & Social Media Manager